



West Haven Library

COLLEEN BAILIE, Executive Director

WEST HAVEN, CT 06516

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Hello, my name is Colleen Bailie, Executive Director of the West Haven Public Library, President of CT Library Association. I am writing in regards to supporting the State Library funding, H.B. No.5037.

The CT State Library is an integral and necessary part of the CT Library's ecosystem. The CT State Library enables group discounts, networking and up to date professional training. They provide access to databases and information that would be financially out of reach to maintain for many individual libraries.

Thank you for recognizing the work of the state library with continued funding necessary to continue their important work. I am pleased to see the library's funding to continue on an upward path towards the funding necessary to properly serve the needs of CT librarians from all types of institutions. Many of the state library's programs are essential to public libraries. BorrowIT, a reciprocal library borrowing program, being one of the most important to public libraries. This program enables patron access to materials in any library in the state with their library card. During the pandemic, this has been essential for many, with some libraries with different levels of service than their neighbors due to any number of factors. While technology and digital access is a vital service in the state library's ecosystem, BorrowIT is equally important.

CT Library Consortium, or CLC provides discounts on a number of databases, including some used at my library. VetNow, which is a live tutoring for veterans to assist them in home and job searches, HelpNow, homework and tutoring help for students, and JobNow, which assists adults looking for jobs; to name three. HelpNow has quickly become one of the highest used databases at my library with a strong need for students looking for assistance with assignments. Continued funding to CLC is a vital need for libraries to continue excellent levels of service by stretching out budgets as much as possible. Last year alone, West Haven Library saved \$35,548 from being a member of CLC.

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